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WINTER SPORTS
and
RECREATION
in the
Berkshire Hills

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The Federal Writers' Project

of

Massachusetts

WHEN WINTER COMES TO THE HIGH PLACES

A View of the Memorial Tower Atop Mt. Greylock, Highest Mountain in Massachusetts

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American Guide Series

WINTER SPORTS and RECREATION

in the

BERKSHIRE HILLS

Compiled by Workers of the Federal Writers' Project of the
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THE BERKSHIRE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

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Feb. 20, 1937

OPEN SLOPES AND JUMP AT SHEEP HILL, WILLIAMSTOWN

Two Views of Popular Area at Sheep Hill, Williamstown

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FOREWORD

Recognizing the need for detailed and accurate information in permanent, printed form descriptive of the Berkshire Hills area and their healthful and pleasurable attractions in winter as well as in summer, we are pleased to commend this booklet to the public, as we were pleased to sponsor it by vote taken at a regular meeting of this Commission, Tuesday, October 13, 1936.

This publication is issued under the sponsorship of The Berkshire County Commissioners, in co-operation with the Federal Writers' Project, to provide a useful Guide to recreational facilities in winter, and to be a permanent record for public information on winter sports and recreation in Berkshire County, Massachusetts.

THE BERKSHIRE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Robert S. Tillotson, Chairman — Lenox
James M. Coughlin — North Adams
Frederick H. Purches — Pittsfield

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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WINTER SPORTS AND RECREATION in the BERKSHIRE HILLS OF MASSACHUSETTS

Long famous as a summer resort, the Berkshire Hills, lying largely in Berkshire, westernmost county of Massachusetts, have become an important winter sports and recreation area. During the past few years the development of public and private lands suited to outdoor winter sports has been stimulated by public agencies as well as by thousands of enthusiastic citizens.

The existence of thousands of acres of public domain, including State Forests, State Parks, and State Reservations, has been a dominating factor in the growth of an adequate winter recreation program in the Berkshires. These lands lie in a mountainous region of unusual beauty, the altitude ranging from 600 to 3,505 feet above sea level. The average snowfall and temperature have usually been sufficient to give continuous ice and snow from December to March. The Berkshires are easily reached by railroad or motor-road from all large centers of population within a radius of 150 miles, most of which do not themselves possess facilities for winter sports.

PUBLIC RESERVATIONS

There are nearly a score of public reservations lying almost wholly within Berkshire County, comprising 70,000 acres of forested hills. These areas include the majority of the highest mountains in the county and in the state. In most of them recreation facilities have been provided for use in winter as well as in summer. In addition to these, several private areas have been developed for public use, ranging from the north to the south of the county and from its eastern to its western border. Some of them provide elaborate facilities for skiing, snowshoeing, tobogganing, skating, sleighing, hunting, hiking, and horseback riding, including the rental of equipment. Even ice-fishing is offered as a winter sport. In two private areas ski-tows have been built and back roads reserved for ski-joring behind horses, which can be hired on the spot.

The enthusiasm of Berkshire County residents and thousands of visitors is translated into action through numerous outing clubs with large memberships. In addition, federal, state, county, and town agencies have co-operated, during the last five years, in helping to make Berkshire County almost as well known for winter fun as for summer relaxation.

MANY AREAS

There are now more than one hundred winter sports and recreation areas in the Berkshires. Within these areas, and reaching out from them, are innumerable cross-country trails for skiing, snowshoeing, and other forms of winter travel. More than one hundred lakes and ponds are open to public use for skating, ice-fishing, ski-sailing, and ice-boating. Thousands of acres of wild lands are open to the hunter of small game. Here, too, is the most densely inhabited deer area in Massachusetts.

The areas accessible to the public by train and car include most of the public lands and all the private recreation areas within the county. The development of new roads and the opening of old, abandoned ones into public lands have kept pace with the demands of winter sports lovers. These roads are kept open for motor travel through the co-operation of federal, state, county, city, and town agencies.

SPECIAL SERVICE

Special train service for winter sportsmen is provided by the three railroads which enter Berkshire. Improved main highways, many miles of county roads, and many more miles of town and forest roads are kept open. Two good landing fields for airplanes are close to winter recreation areas, and there is excellent county-wide motor-bus service. Snow-busses for special events provide transportation to all parts of the hill country. Excellent hotels, inns, and taverns, comfortable tourist homes, and boarding-houses of the traditional New England type, offer accommodations for winter visitors. Some of the larger summer hotels are remaining open for the first time this winter especially to accommodate winter sports enthusiasts.

Winter carnivals are held in several towns. Spectacular downhill ski races and ski-jumping contests provide entertainment for spectators as well as participants. Special qualifying contests and instruction in skiing are held under the auspices of clubs and private areas.

During the past year several new ski-trails have been laid out, others improved and enlarged, and many traverse and side-trails built to provide variety in combined downhill and cross-country skiing. In addition to the many lakes and ponds which offer natural skating by moonlight several ice rinks have been provided with lights for night-skating. Two natural toboggan runs were begun in the autumn of 1936; three new ski jumps, one of them among the highest in this country, are used for intercollegiate as well as for professional jumping. (See **Berkshire Recreation Areas**, p. 10).

BERKSHIRE WINTER SCENES

The magnificent frosted summit of Mt. Greylock, which rises 3,505 feet above sea level, is the highest point in Massachusetts, and is continually white from early November to late April. The rounded dome of Mt. Everett, 2,624 feet above sea level, glimmers frostily at the south end of Berkshire. The well-wooded hills which range the eastern borders, the Hoosacs, the Taconics on the west, the broken ranges between, lift white lines against the sky throughout the winter. Afoot, on skis or snowshoes, in a hay-filled sleigh, on horseback—everywhere in these hills are magic scenes visible "to him who in the love of nature holds communion with her visible forms."

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The Final Plunge in the Downhill Race—Thunderbolt

A Winter Afternoon Silhouette at Bousquet's Open Slopes, Pittsfield

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ALONG THE TRAILS

From the top of a ski-run on a Berkshire mountain the skier or snowshoer pauses before the descent to gaze back along the winding vista of the trail, down for a mile or more, where black specks dot the slopes. Smoke rises from a warm-house near the trail to join that from a farmhouse, recently become a guest-house surrounded with parked cars. Then off and down—at forty miles an hour!

The skier glides down a run which soon becomes a 33-degree drop, curves sharply right, then left, through a narrow pass hedged by woods and rocks; then over a bank which seems perpendicular (35 degrees), swerves about an S-curve at flashing speed, brakes and drags to check his terrific momentum as another corner flings itself at him. Then he comes out in the open on a gentler grade to see for a gasping instant again the view he studied from the top, catches a glimpse of mountains sweeping at him from clear across the valley; then takes the final turn and the last curving, slippery slope, with its tricky dip just before the finish line.

DOWN THUNDERBOLT

He has made the descent of the highest and steepest ski-run in the state: Thunderbolt, which begins at the very summit of Mt. Greylock and drops 2,060 feet vertically in a distance of one mile 350 yards. Here for two successive seasons the Massachusetts Downhill Ski Championship races have been held, and this winter the Eastern Amateur Championship will be run off here (1937).

At the other end of the county, almost at the Connecticut line, the New England Ski Hill provides a possible leap of 400 feet from the top of a rocky eminence, with a plunge of 1,050 feet from the starting point. Scores of intermediate, novice, and practice runs, acres of open slopes, provide a skiing paradise within the limits of the county's area. Within a few hours' ride in any direction from Berkshire are also to be found other winter sports areas, but none with greater beauty.

GEOLOGICAL, HISTORICAL, SCENIC BERKSHIRE

The Berkshires form a part of the great Appalachian Mountain System which stretches from Alabama to Newfoundland. More exactly, they are an extension of the Green Mountain Range of Vermont and occupy the entire western end of Massachusetts. The Berkshire foothills press down into the Connecticut Valley eastward, and the plateau stretches back and up to the Taconic Range along the western boundary of the state.

The Berkshires are divided into two geological regions. The first is the Cambrian and the Ordovician limestone valley of the Housatonic River, a prong of the Appalachian Valley in which rise steep schist ridges from Mt. Greylock to the Canaan Mountains. The second region is in eastern Berkshire County and includes the broad Archean-Silurian upland running through the Hoosac Mountains and southward through the hill towns of Peru, Washington, and Becket.

Geologically, the Berkshire region occupies all of Massachusetts west of the Connecticut River Valley, but the portion included in Berkshire County is usually taken as a unit. The western sections of Hampshire, Hampden, and Franklin Counties are, however, part of the Berkshire plateau.

HIGHEST SUMMIT

The Mt. Greylock group, at its summit highest in the state, forms one of the most spectacular and interesting geological structures in the entire range. This State Reservation of over 8,600 acres includes the unique chasm known as the Hopper, over 1,000 feet deep, apparently coming to a funnel point at the bottom, on the northwestern side of the peak once known as Mt. Griffin. It is worth climbing the opposite and lower lookout of Stony Ledge to get a view of the Hopper.

From Mt. Greylock, range after range and peak after peak melt into the sky in the direction of New York, New Hampshire and Vermont. The White Mountains and Mt. Washington in the Granite State; the Adirondacks, Catskills, and Helderbergs in New York; and the rising rumps of the Green Mountains due north in Vermont are visible from this point. Looking to the south on a clear winter's day one may sometimes see the shipping in New York City harbor. Mt. Tom and the Mt. Holyoke hills ripple away to the

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eastward. The Blue Hills of Hampden County are to be seen not far away, and directly below lie the deep valleys of the Hoosac and Housatonic.

MADE BY TIME

This world was made by time: the great folds of the Appalachian mountain system were compressed against the Adirondacks by forces thrusting from the east. These furrows, worn down by rain, wind, frost and snows, formed prominent mountainous chains, without high summits, and a low plateau. Erosion cut these hills almost to sea level, leaving Massachusetts nearly a continuous plain, sloping southward and eastward, with surviving elevations known to the Indians as adnocks—an example of which, in majestic survival, is Mt. Monadnock, seen in the northeast from Greylock's summit.

Second in height only to Mt. Greylock is Mt. Everett, part of a state reservation of 1,200 acres, which lies close to the southwestern corner of the county and state. It is distinctive for its storied dome, rising 2,624 feet and clothed with a singular growth of twisted, knotted gray pine, aglow in season almost to the summit with mountain laurel in a profusion not to be found at such height elsewhere in Berkshire. A view of different character than from Greylock lies about it—of dreamily pastoral lands, once under Indian ownership.

Monument Mountain Reservation, maintained by the Trustees for public reservations, with its 490 acres of almost solid white marble, like a man-raised monument cleaves the county in two. From its "Old Man" face can be had an unequalled view of the broadening valley of the Housatonic to the south.

More state forests are found in the Berkshires than in any other division of the Commonwealth. Nowhere are conditions more suitable for the establishment and development of these wild lands for public use, for forestry, wild life, conservation of water and recreation.

HISTORY

In the white man's history the Berkshires are younger than most of southern New England. The Westfield Indian Treaty in 1724 opened the area for settlement in the south. As early as 1692 a few Dutch settlers had come up into the Taconics from the Hudson Valley, living in what is now Mt. Washington, but the general establishment of towns did not begin until 1730, when the boundary lines were settled. The French and Indian Wars retarded the movement of pioneers, but many of the soldiers stationed at Fort Massachusetts on the Hoosic River returned with their families and friends when peace came. After 1756 the increase was steady, until at the turn of the century Berkshire was on its way to complete settlement. Most of the early settlers came up from Connecticut, others from the east, over the "Great Road," a widened Indian trail from Westfield to Sheffield. Indian trails, worn bare by generations of moccasined feet, crossed the Berkshires in all directions, one of them leading up the Hoosac Valley, across the Hoosac Divide and down the Deerfield Valley to the Connecticut River—the famed Mohawk Trail which is approximately followed by the highway of that name today, and is a continual panorama of historic and scenic interest throughout its length from Greenfield to North Adams.

INDUSTRY

Agriculture, the principal occupation from earliest times, met at first with severe setbacks from the necessity of clearing dense forests and the danger from wild beasts and fierce savages. But abundant harvests rewarded those who persisted, and crops of wheat, oats, barley, Indian corn and flax were garnered; later there grew apples, pears, plums, quinces and grapes, some of the trees springing from the seedlings planted by "Johnny Appleseed," the first cross-country tourist of the Berkshires.

Then came an industrial era, with wool a principal crop to supply the growing textile industry which was stimulated by the introduction of power machinery for wool-carding. Papermaking followed as a major industry when the pure mountain springs of Berkshire were found to provide just the right water for the process. Abundant water power and the discovery of iron ore augmented agricultural, textile manufacturing and paper-making industries. Limestone quarries furnished both white marble for building and fine-ground lime for building and agricultural use.

The growth of industry brought about heavy

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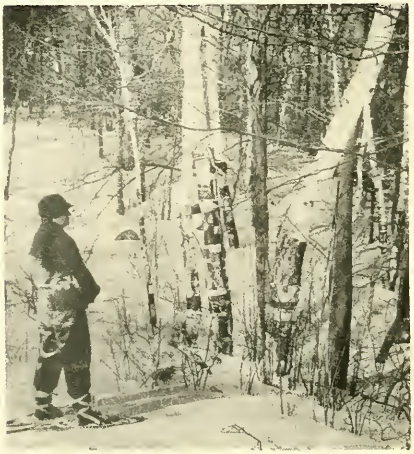
settlement in a few centers, such as Pittsfield, today county seat; Adams, North Adams, Lee and Great Barrington. In later years the magnet of industrial employment drew down the population of the smaller hill towns, so that most of these are smaller now than three quarters of a century ago. The growing popularity of the Berkshire Hills as a summer resort, however, and more recently as a winter recreation area, has begun to build up again the almost abandoned small mountain towns. Beautification of village and countryside has gained great impetus in recent years.

As a health resort the Berkshires have long been recognized. Visitors find good roads and ample railroad facilities in the midst of wild ruggedness and seclusion, together with opportunities for sports, including, since 1930, winter sports.

Within this area, only four hours from Boston or New York, reached by special "snow trains," US 7 and US 20 and connecting roads such as the Mohawk Trail, Knox Trail, Taconic Trail, are some of the most picturesque ski trails in the East. It is not surprising that many a visitor has found in this country of splendid views, good water, friendly forests and fair fields some dignified old farmhouse which he has begun to restore. Each year more tourists and summer residents become permanent citizens of the Berkshire Hills of Massachusetts.



A BLACK AND WHITE STUDY IN BERKSHIRE

The Slower Snowshoe Allows Leisurely Contemplation of the Beauty of the Winter Woods

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SKIING MOVEMENT IN THE BERKSHIRE HILLS COUNTRY

The precipitous slopes of Mt. Greylock and old foot-trails or wagon-roads climbing up and down that lofty summit stimulated the first downhill skiing in the Berkshires. As early as 1912 some enhusiasts from Schenectady, New York, began the systematic use of these trails, notably those at Cheshire Harbor and The Hopper.

The oldest ski group in the county was that formed by the Williams Outing Club at Williams College, which started to ski over these and other Greylock trails in 1916-17, when the first ski team was formed. The second wave of skiing enthusiasm began in 1930 when again groups of enthusiasts from Schenectady under the leadership of Dr. I. Langmuir, and a group from Greenfield led by Charles L. Parker, a charter member of the Greenfield Outing Club, began visiting Mt. Greylock. The most enthusiastic group was the Berkshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club which began organized ski trips up Greylock and October Mountains in 1929-30, using portions of the "AT" and side slopes.

FIRST SKI RUN

The first real ski run was laid out by this club to connect the open slopes about the Thiel Farm, recently purchased and added to Mt. Greylock Reservation, with the old Bellows Pipe Trail, thus allowing a continuous descent into Adams from the summit. The new course of Thunderbolt Ski Run, which will be swung to the east, will follow closely that of the old Appalachian Trail ski layout.

Great impetus was given the skiing movement when the Mt. Greylock Ski Club was formed in the early winter of 1932 and began work on Cheshire Harbor Trail on Mt. Greylock, as well as clearing for ski trails.

During the winter of 1931-32 the first "snow train" was run into the Berkshire Hills by the Boston & Albany R.R. from Springfield to Hinsdale, bringing fifty to sixty ski enthusiasts to enjoy the open slopes about Hinsdale Country Club and the skating on Plunkett Reservoir. Another "snow train" ran to Hinsdale in 1933, and in 1934-35 the New York, New Haven & Hartford

R.R. began operating "snow trains" from New York to Pittsfield.

CLUBS AND C.C.C.

The organization of other outing clubs and ski clubs, and the formation of the Western Massachusetts Winter Sports Committee at Massachusetts State College in 1934, stimulated more interest. When the Civilian Conservation Corps was formed, building of ski trails boomed with its help.

Ghost Trail in Pittsfield State Forest was the first trail finished. This and the Bousquet Trail (private property) were laid out by the Mt. Greylock Ski Club. Dwight Francis of Pittsfield, who when a boy had practiced skiing by trudging about the Berkshire Hills after some visiting Norwegian skiers and who had skied in Europe, led the group from the Mt. Greylock Ski Club, Adams Outing Club, and Western Massachusetts Winter Sports Council that laid out Thunderbolt Run.

Cheshire Harbor Trail was in use as a natural ski run earlier than any others. It became a made trail in 1934.

In 1935 a group of about fifty trails and slopes was in use in the Berkshire Hills. All the ski trails save Thunderbolt and Ghost Trail were laid out by Charles L. Parker, under the direction of the National Park Service. Much of the work was done by the Civilian Conservation Corps, aided by outing club members who spent many days as volunteer workers clearing slopes and trails.

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In the annals of skiing in Berkshire there is a memory of a cross-country skiing trip made by a group of enthusiasts in 1898, when seven men from Pittsfield and vicinity, some on home-made skis, took a journey about the hills. In 1900 and until 1910 there were a few casual skiers active in the Berkshires, but it was not until October 28, 1932, that an organization was proposed to promote skiing as a major winter sport. A letter then sent out by the Pittsfield Y.M.C.A. to 35 Pittsfield organizations announced a "dry course" under the direction of Charles L. Parker, to start October 31 at the Y.M.C.A. From this beginning was born the Mt. Greylock Ski Club and there followed the others, listed below in the order of the date of their organization:

Williams Outing Club, Williams College, Williamstown, 1916.

Mt. Greylock Ski Club, Pittsfield, 1932.

Thunderbolt Ski Club, Adams, 1933.

North Adams Ski Club, North Adams, 1934.

Stockbridge Ski Club, Stockbridge, 1935.

Taconic Ski Club, Great Barrington, 1935.

Beartown Ski Club, Lee, 1935.

Mt. Day Ski Club, Dalton, 1935.

FROM TOP TO BOTTOM AT A GLANCE

Looking Up Thunderbolt from Near Finish Line

On the Brink of Thunderbolt Ski Run, Greylock

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TOURS AND TRIPS TO BERKSHIRE RECREATION AREAS

PITTSFIELD, county seat of Berkshire, is so centrally located in the county and in the Berkshire Hills region that it has long been known as "The Heart of the Berkshires." The principal main routes entering Berkshire have their juncture in Pittsfield. This shire city of almost 50,000 inhabitants has a fortunate location for the winter tourist as there are two large winter playgrounds within its corporate limits, and all of the many recreation areas in the county are situated within an easy hour's ride by motor from Pittsfield.

The center of the city is the Park, an oval with tall elms which during the winter is handsomely decorated with evergreens. It is at the juncture of the four main streets—North, South, East, and West, which extend from the Park in the directions indicated. All bus lines radiate from here, and it is only two blocks westerly to the Union Station. Winter tours and trips to all points in the Berkshires may very appropriately begin here.

Skating is possible throughout the winter season in Pittsfield on three municipal rinks kept cleared of snow. They are located on the Common, in Springside Park, and on Weller Ave.

Accommodations in Pittsfield at Wendell Hotel, modern fireproof (E); Allen Hotel, Wendell Ave. Ex., $1.25 day (E); South Street Inn (E) or (A); Mrs. C. A. Mixer, 538 South St. (E); Mrs. George Conant, 501 South St. (E); Mrs. W. King, 508 South St. (E); Mrs. W. H. Korman, 533 South St. (E); Yokun Seat Mtn. House (A); (N.B. Preceding five places convenient to Bousquet Trails); The Spadina, 185 South St., lodging and breakfast; Clinton Hall, 179 South St. (A); The Red Hen, 120 South St. (E); Yellow Aster, Pittsfield-Lenox Rd. (E); Mrs. August Kiligas, 37° South St. (E).

BOUSQUET'S, the nearest winter sports area (small charge for admission), is a 365-acre mountain skiing and sliding development with seven ski runs and 100 acres of open slopes. **(See No. 20 on map.)** This is an old, long-abandoned brickyard area recently developed for recreation. Two ski tows (small fee) lift skiers a total of 2,400 feet, vertically 550 feet. Warm-house, first aid, refreshments, practice areas, good snowshoe trails to Pittsfield Skyline Trail are to be found here. (For accommodations see below.)

The area is the northern end of cross-country snowshoe and ski trails which pass through Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Lenox, to the Beartown Mt. Area at South Lee. There are fine views from all open slopes of Pittsfield to N. and E., South Mt. and Coolidge Home atop it near Music Colony to NE. To the N. is Mt. Greylock (3,505 alt.), to the W. and NW. Pittsfield State Forest in the Taconic Mts., and the Pittsfield airport.

Route: S. from Pittsfield on US 7, South St., to South Mountain Rd., **1.4 m.**; R. on South Mountain Rd. to Tamarack Rd. at **2 m.**; L. to the private road (R) at the Bousquet Area and warm-house, **3 m.** En route, the N. Y., N. H. & H. R.R. Snow Train Station is passed on the (R) at **1.1 m.**, from where special busses of the Berkshire St. Ry. carry passengers from the trains.

PITTSFIELD STATE FOREST (see No. 18, No. 19, and No. 20 on map) is fast being developed into a leading Berkshire winter sports area, providing skiing, cross-country trails, snowshoeing and hiking. Included in the 15 miles of cross-country trails are Skyline, Lulu Brook, Honwee Circuit, Parker Brook, Tower Mt., Hawthorne, Sackett, North Branch and Goodrich Hollow. Special facilities for skiing are Cross Country, Ghost, Shadow and Lulu Open Slopes.

Skyline Trail, typical of all in the state forest development, is adapted for snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and hiking. Leaving Hancock, it extends SE. to summit of Tower Mt., then E. to boundaries of the forest. At junction of Skyline and Fire Trails the course bears to Berry Pond, the highest body of water in Massachusetts (2,150 alt.). Passing Berry Hill (2,200 alt.), Skyline continues beyond state land and over mountains to Williamstown.

Many points in Pittsfield State Forest offer superb views of surrounding country. The Green Mts. of Vermont, the Catskills of New York, the beautiful Lebanon Valley and the inspiring Goodrich Hollow in Hancock below are all within view to skiers from numerous vantage points. Shelters and log cabins have been erected.

Route from Pittsfield: N. on US 7 to Wahconah St., then (L) to Peck's Rd. and again (L) across Onota Lake causeway to Churchill St. From

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WINTER SCENES IN SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE

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Snowbound Brook

Snow Train Station, South Lee

Beartown Mountain Ski Slopes

Skating at Stockbridge

Little Friends from the Forest

Working the Winter Roads

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Churchill St. take the first (L), then the first (R). Then next (R), Shamrock Blvd., leads to the parking area, **4.5 m.** From Williamstown: S. on US 7 to Hancock Rd. at foot of Pontoosuc Lake. (R) on Hancock St. to end of road. Turn (L) and immediately (R) on private road in abandoned Civilian Conservation Corps camp area. The distance is **4.5 m.** from main highway at lake.

LANESBOROUGH, a peaceful New England village, **6 m.** from Pittsfield on US 7, offers much to the winter sports enthusiast. Regular bus service is provided from Pittsfield. Beautiful Pontoosuc Lake provides ice fishing and ice sailing, and many areas are open for snowshoe trips.

A snowshoe trail W. on Silver St. passes the site of the birthplace of Henry S. Shaw ("Josh Billings") on Constitution Hill; his grave is in the Lanesborough Cemetery. Silver St. derived its name from a counterfeiters' cave (during the Colonial period) on the hillside. Old roads from Constitution Hill lead to the famous Balanced Rock, a 365-ton marble patriarch weathering the ages of time, with pointed base, poised in position by Nature atop a smaller rock three feet above the ground. North of Constitution Hill are located famous caves with a disappearing brook lost in subterranean crevices. This village holds much of Revolutionary interest.

BRODIE MT. (small fee), with four novice ski trails, including the original, rated Brodie Mt. Trail, is a newly developed private area. In addition are Open Slopes to accommodate 100 to 150 persons. Warm-house. **(See W. of No. 11 on map.)** **BRODIE MT. TRAIL** is located on E. slope of Brodie Mt., in Lanesborough, near the New Ashford line. Class, novice; length, 1 mile 350 yards; vertical descent, 930 feet; width, 8-20 feet; max. grade, 13-14 degrees; exposure, E.; 3 inches of snow required. Other trails not rated. Route: from Pittsfield N. on US 7, **10.2 m.,** ski-trails and warm-house on (L); from Williamstown, S. on US 7. **10.1 m.**

The Berkshire-Cheshire road E. from Lanesborough center at the brick church connects US 7 and State 8. This is a short cut, 2.3 m. long, to State 8, leading to the Adams and Thunderbolt areas.

Accommodations at Lanesborough: Josh Billings' Place, $2.50 day (A); Cobblestone Lodge, $2.50 day (A); and a number of tourist places and overnight camps along the route.

ADAMS AREA (Adams, North Adams, Cheshire).

The Adams area is a large valley bristling with lofty mountains of the Taconic range to the east, a region ideally located for winter sports. Towering over all is Mount Greylock with the great Thunderbolt Ski Run down its face.

ADAMS, the center of activities, is reached from Pittsfield N. over State 9 and 8, a distance of **16 m.;** from North Adams, S. on the same route, **6 m.** Skiing, snowshoeing, tobogganing, and ski-joring are found on numerous trails, slopes and runs. Most popular are Mount Greylock, Thunderbolt Ski Run, Cheshire Harbor Trail, Bellows Pipe and Open Slopes. **(See No. 1, No. 12, and No. 13 on map.)** The Adams Country Club Grounds, 10 minutes from town, the Memorial Beacon on Greylock, Stafford's Hill with its Norse Monument, Hoosac Lake in Cheshire for fishing, are worth visiting.

Accommodations in Adams: Mohawk Hotel, $1.25 day (E); Greylock Hotel, $2.50 day (A); Colonial Lodge, $2.50 day (A); Gould Farm, foot of Thunderbolt Run (A); Thiel Farm, new ski area, Mount Greylock (A); Greylock Rest, accom. 50 (A); Burke's Inn, State 8, $2.50 day; Glendale Farm, 1 m. from Thunderbolt Run.

MOUNT GREYLOCK, highest peak in Massachusetts (3,505 alt.), is a state reservation of over 8,600 acres devoted to summer and winter recreation. **(See No. 1 on map.)** It is interlaced with miles of hiking, snowshoe, and ski trails. At its summit is the memorial beacon from which all the New England states, New York and Pennsylvania can be seen on clear days. Snowshoe trails total 25 miles in this reservation.

THUNDERBOLT SKI RUN (see No. 12 on map), one of the finest in the East and the pride of Berkshire residents, should be undertaken only by experienced skiers. On the E. side of Mount Greylock it extends down sheer slopes for **1.55 m.,** descending 2,060 feet. Its racing trail is a

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BERKSHIRE HILLS SKI TRAILS AND SLOPES

Key Numbers for Recreation Map Opposite Side

EXPLANATION

Abbreviations: V.D. means "vertical descent;" Class means "classification;" M.G means "maximum grade;" D.S. means "snow depth required;" Exp. means "exposure."

Only brief descriptions given here. SEE MAP for directions and approximate distance from all centers. Study MAP LEGENDS on front page.

SUMMIT OF MT. GREYLOCK

1. Alt. 3505 ft., highest mountain in State. Shelter, stove, wood near Memorial Beacon. Novice skiers can use upper part of **Thunderbolt Ski Run** (See No. 12), the **Notch Road** (See No. 2) and **Rockwell Road.**

●

NORTH ADAMS

2. **NOTCH ROAD.** N. shoulder of Mt. Greylock from summit to North Adams. **Class:** novice. **Length:** 6.9 m. V.D. 2500'. **Width:** 15-25'. M.G. 6 deg Exp. N,W,E. D.S. 3". Distance from plowed road 0 miles.

3. **BERNARD HILL.** Near foot of Notch Road to Mt. Greylock. **Class:** novice. **Width:** 30-40'. Dist. 1/3 m. D.S. 3-4". Open slopes for hundreds.

4. **MOHAWK TRAIL HILL.** Back of Elk on Mohawk Trail. Alt. 1000'. Early skiing.

5. **SAVOY STATE FOREST.** Off Mohawk Trail, E. of North Adams. Open slopes.

●

WILLIAMSTOWN

6. **SHEEP HILL.** One of the best big slopes. Ski tow 1000'. Descent 1000'. M.G. 30 deg Jumps of 130' plus on Williams College Outing Club jump. Small practice jump. D.S. 5".

7. **BERLIN PASS TRAIL.** On Berlin Mt. **Class:** novice **Length:** 1.5 m. (1.5 m. of grade). V.D. 1600'. **Width:** 8-12'. M.G. 15 deg. Exp. E,SE. D.S. 6". Safe and sporty.

8. **THE HOPPER.** Wild, deep valley west of Greylock **Hopper Trail,** V.D. 2500' in 3.8 m. Lower end steep, narrow, dangerous. Various cross-country trails.

9. **GOODELL HOLLOW.** SW. of Greylock summit in So. Williamstown. Fine north slopes. Late skiing.

STONY LEDGE SKI TRAIL. SW. slope of Greylock. **Class:** intermediate. **Length:** 1.6 m. V.D. 1405'. **Width:** 15-50'. M.G. 22 deg. Exp. W,SW. D.S. 4". Smooth, fast, heavily wooded.

10. **MT. GREYLOCK SKI CLUB NIGHT HILL.** At New Ashford. Short, steep, smooth, sheltered. To W. on Route 7 ends at road; lighted by portable lights.

11. **NEW ASHFORD ROAD TO GREYLOCK.** Alt. to 2500' Plowed Winter road to Greylock no skiing.

●

ADAMS

12. **THUNDERBOLT SKI RUN AND OPEN SLOPES.** E slope of Mt. Greylock **Class:** advanced **Length:** 1.55 m. (racing trail 1 m., 1050'). V.D. 2060' (racing trail 1760'). **Width:** 18-60'. M.G. 35 deg Exp. N,E,SE. D.S. 5"; lower slopes 10". One of the steepest and most difficult runs in East.

OPEN SLOPES. More than 100 acres smooth, windswept at foot of Thunderbolt.

BELLOW'S PIPE. Open slopes and large parking area to E of Thunderbolt which will have new finish here at Thiel Farm Being developed as largest ski area in East.

13. **CHESHIRE HARBOR TRAIL.** SE. shoulder of Greylock. **Class:** novice. **Length:** 2.5 m V.D. 2000' **Width:** 6-20'. M.G 15-18 deg Exp. E,SE. (thickly wooded). High banks, safe but interesting

●

CHESHIRE

14 **APPALACHIAN TRAIL.** Along Route 8, numerous smooth, wide open slopes. Novice. App. Trail connects with Jones' Nose, Greylock; fine cross-country runs.

●

DALTON

15. **BULL DOG HILLS.** Large and small areas. Exp. E. Lighted by small portables.

●

HINSDALE

16. **HINSDALE COUNTRY CLUB.** Smooth sod open slopes. Early. Right in town.

MT. GREYLOCK SKI CLUB JUMP. Miniature championship jump on N. slope in hemlocks. Jump 50-60' possible.

●

BECKET

17. **HAYES FARM SLOPES.** 40-acre tract just E. of town and 500 yds. from B&A RR. snow train stop. Three trails. Slope 20 acres 7000' long. Intermediate trails (2) 5000'. Warm house at foot.

●

PITTSFIELD

18. **PITTSFIELD STATE FOREST.** Skiers' paradise.

GHOST TRAIL. E. slope Pine Mt. **Class:** intermediate. **Length:** 0.5 m. V.D. 682'. M.G. 22 deg. Exp. E,SE. D.S. 4".

19. **OPEN SLOPES.** New turf slope, variety of grades, 100-150' wide. Over 900' long. Back of old CCC camp. 15 m. cross-country trails including road to Berry Pd., highest lake in State.

SHADOW TRAIL. Class: intermediate. **Length:** 0.5 m. V.D. 680'. **Width:** 15-35'. M.G. 17 deg. Exp. E,SE. D.S. 4". Smooth, twisting, steady descent. Connects with Ghost Trail. Shelter at foot.

20. **BOUSQUET SKI TRAILS.** Two ski-tows, six downhill trails, 3 open slopes. More than 100 acres smooth, safe slopes from 750' to 900' with M.G. up to 18 deg.

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WINTER SPORTS MAP

OF THE

BERKSHIRE HILLS

PREPARED BY

THE FEDERAL WRITERS PROJECTS

OF

MASSACHUSETTS

USA
WORK
PROGRAM
WPA

PUBLISHED BY THE BERKSHIRE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MAIN ROUTES

INTERMEDIATE ROUTES

APPALACHIAN TRAIL

FOREST & RESERVATION AREAS

SKI AREA — 1 TO 35

GREEN

SKI TOWS

TOBOGGAN SLIDES

SKATING AREAS — S-●

FISHING AREAS — F-●

WINTER TRAILS (CROSS COUNTRY)

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BERKSHIRE HILLS SKI TRAILS AND SLOPES

Key Numbers for Recreation Map Opposite Side

BOUSQUET SKI RUN. **Class:** Inter. to advanced. **Width:** 40-75'. M.G. 32 deg. D.S. 4-7". A big run, steep near top. Beginners banned when tow is running.

YOKUN TRAIL. **Class:** novice. **Width:** 18-35'. M.G. 18-20 deg. D.S. 3-4". Smooth, curved, steady descent.

OSCEOLA TRAIL. **Class:** advanced. **Width:** 20-35'. M.G. 25 deg. D.S. 5". Twisting trail.

RUSSELL TRAIL. **Class:** novice to inter. Two endings. **Width:** 18-35'. M.G. 23 deg.

PARKER TRAIL. **Class:** inter. **Width:** 15-30'. M.G. 21-23 deg. Optional choice through woods or connect on open Russell trail.

EAST TRAIL. **Class:** novice. **Width:** 8-18'. M.G. 15-17 deg. Narrow and safe. Connects cross-country trail to Pleasant Valley Sanctuary in Lenox.

RUSSELL SLOPE. 20 acres open slopes, flood lighted for night skiing.

●

LENOX

21. **PLEASANT VALLEY BIRD SANCTUARY.** Several miles of snowshoe and cross-country trails. Fireplaces, museum. On Route 7 half way between Lenox and Pittsfield.

22. **OCTOBER MT. RESERVATION.** West entrance in Lenox. Mt. road good novice trail. Des. 670' in mile. Summit flat open country. Several open slopes near Lenoxdale. Main road up Mt. at Lenoxdale.

●

LEE

23. **OCTOBER MT. RESERVATION.** South entrance at west end Greenwater Pd. on Jacob's Ladder route. Appalachian Trail marked with white sign. Good cross-country trail.

●

SOUTH LEE

24. **BEARTOWN STATE FOREST.** Developed for snow train crowds, near NYNH&H RR station at So. Lee. Two trails and open slope, wooded north exp.

POLAR SLOPE. **Length:** 1000'. V.D. 250'. **Width:** 50-550'. M.G. 24 deg. Adapted for all classes.

KODIAK TRAIL. **Class:** advanced. **Length:** 2238'. V.D. 607'. **Width:** 15-50'. M.G. 30 deg. D.S. 6". Steep, hairpin turns and right angles.

GRIZZLY TRAIL. **Class:** advanced. **Length:** 2574'. V.D. 665'. **Width:** 15-50'. M.G. 30 deg. Parallels Kodiak Trail and connects at top.

25. **OPEN SLOPES.** Near the station two fine smooth slopes on private land. Other hills nearby. Two miles up road two CCC camps in 5000 acre reservation. Many trails and hills from here.

●

STOCKBRIDGE

26. **STOCKBRIDGE SKI CLUB NIGHT HILL.** A broad, smooth, lighted slope on Icy Glen road near town center.

27. **ICY GLEN ROAD HILL.** Large, smooth slopes. M.G. 20 deg. Exp. N.W. Turn left over bridge on Gt. Barrington road near Stockbridge station. Hills at end of road less than mile.

ALFORD

28. **ALFORD OPEN SLOPES.** Nearly mile wide, ½ m. long, descends 300'. Some fences Some grades 20 deg., others less. Exp. W. Hills often crusted.

●

GREAT BARRINGTON

29. **SEEKONK BROOK HILL.** Good inter. hill, sheltered. Exp. E. **Width:** 900'. Three slopes divided by trees. V.D. 200'. M.G. 15-20 deg. Steep. D.S. 5".

30. **ABBEY FARM HILL.** 30 acres, gentle grade. Gradual des. 14 deg. for 900'.

31. **GT. BARRINGTON STATE FOREST TRAILS.** On north slope Mt. Warner 2.5 miles from town on Rt. 7 to Rt. 17, right for 2.2 m. 200 yds. from plowed road.

TACONIC TRAIL. **Class:** intermediate and novice. **Length:** 0.7 m. V.D. 630'. **Width:** 20-60'. M.G. 25 deg. D.S. 4". Wide, smooth, many turns. Safe for all classes.

FORGOTTEN BRIDGE TRAIL. **Class:** inter. and novice. **Length:** 0.8 m. V.D. 630'. **Width:** 15-50'. M.G. 31 deg. D.S. 4". Parallels Taconic Trail, connecting at top. Uphill section at bottom of steep pitch. Small slopes.

●

SHEFFIELD

32. **BERKSHIRE SCHOOL.** Elbow Trail, inter. run to top Mt. Everett. **Length:** 2.5 m. V.D. 1700'. **Width:** 8-20'. M.G. 35 deg. Sheltered. D.S. 8-10". Open slopes and 50' jump at school. 4 miles cross-country and downhill trails. One expert trail. Open to students and guests only.

●

SOUTH EGREMONT

33. **GUILDER HOLLOW.** Jug End Barn for skiers and hikers. Big ski development foot of Mt. Everett.

JUG END TRAIL. **Class:** intermediate. **Length:** 1 m. V.D. 1000'. **Width:** 8-50'. M.G. 30 deg. Exp. NE. D.S. 6-8". A new 3rd class sporty trail, from top of Mt. Sterling.

SKEKUT TRAIL. At NW. slope Jug End Mt. **Class:** novice. **Length:** 1.5 m. V.D. 750'. **Width:** 5-50'. M.G. 25 deg. Exp. NW. D.S. 8-12". A scenic cross-country trail.

GUILDER HOLLOW TRAIL. **Class:** novice. **Length:** 5 m. V.D. 300'. **Width:** 15'. M.G. 10 deg. Exp. N,NE. D.S. 6-8". A long cross-country trail with many acres smooth open slopes at Hollow.

●

MOUNT WASHINGTON

34. **MT. EVERETT.** Splendid view from summit 2626'. 7.5 m. to top from So. Egremont. Rises 950' in 1¼ m. from reservation tea house. Auto road ends several hundred feet from top.

●

NEW BOSTON

35. **NEW ENGLAND SKI CLUB JUMP.** Professional meets held here. Landing slope 450' long. M.G. 38 deg. Space for 30,000 spectators.

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vertical descent of 1,760 feet, a most difficult one to negotiate, and the skier has but a fleeting glimpse of the scenery. Amateur and collegiate racing meets are held here during winter. Route: W. from McKinley Square, Adams, on Maple St. to top of hill, turn (L), then first (R) to parking area. Last **.7 m.** is steep; chains are needed at times.

OPEN SLOPES of more than 100 acres at foot of Thunderbolt appeal to hundreds of skiers and tobogganists. There are many excellent slopes, while others are windswept. One of the best follows a power line to the rear of Mr. Gould's house, next to the last on the road. The other is beside Mr. Roman's house. Open slopes and lower part of the trail are on private land. To reach, follow Thunderbolt directions.

BELLOWS PIPE, big slopes N. of Open Slopes, are inviting but disappointing when they are windswept. A number of trails are in this vicinity on N. and E. slopes of Greylock. This area forms part of the new development in the Greylock Reservation and can be reached from the THEIL HOMESTEAD, recently acquired by the state as part of the reservation. It is open for meals, lodging, or warming.

NORTH ADAMS, 22 m. from Pittsfield, over State 8, offers skiing, snowshoeing, hunting, horseback riding, and hiking to the vacationist, tourist, or sports seeker in an area well adapted for winter sports. From here radiate winter playgrounds in the direction of Williamstown, Adams, Pittsfield, Savoy, and Florida.

Accommodations may be found at Richmond Hotel, $1.25 day (E); The Chateau, 30 Quincy St. (A); Elm Manor, 521 W. Main St.; Hill Top, 655 Union St.; Mrs. Maud Richardson, 767 Church St.; The Saxton, 6 Quincy St.; Clum's Tourist Home, 7 Quincy St.; and the Wellington Hotel.

Popular near-by skiing areas in North Adams are **NOTCH ROAD** on N. shoulder of Mt. Greylock, and **BERNARD'S HILL** on Bernard's Farm, **2.5 m.** from the center of the city, off Notch Rd. **(See No. 2, No. 3 on map.)**

NOTCH ROAD, for novice class, runs for **6.9 m.** through enchanting winter scenery. Excellent open slopes are at Bernard's Hill, where many activities are planned this winter (1937). This area is protected by timber growth. Route: W. from N. Adams on State 2 to Notch Rd. (L) which leads to the reservoir; then turn sharp (L) and take the next (R) up the mountain. Bernard's Hill is along the Notch Road. From Pittsfield, N. on US 7 to Williamstown, **22 m.**; R. from Williamstown on State 2 to Notch Rd. (R); or, N. on State 9 and State 8 (L) through Adams and No. Adams **22 m.** to areas.

CHESHIRE (see No. 14 on map), enclosed by Hoosac and Taconic ranges, is **11 m.** N. of Pittsfield on State 8, halfway to North Adams. Numerous smooth, wide slopes offer much opportunity for winter sports. The Appalachian Trail from here to Jones' Nose on Mount Greylock (where it connects with a branch of Cheshire Harbor Trail) provides splendid cross-country skiing.

Accommodations in Cheshire: Broadacres, farm home, $2.50 day (A); Bickford Farm, $2.50 day (A); and Cheshire Inn (A).

WILLIAMSTOWN AREA (Williamstown, New Ashford).

WILLIAMSTOWN, a Berkshire winter sports center in the NW. corner of Massachusetts, is **22 miles** N. of Pittsfield on US 7 and State 2. Main arteries of travel lead into and through this college town from all directions, making it accessible for its well-developed program of winter recreation. Owing to its geographic location amid hills and mountains, Williamstown is ideally situated for promotion of winter sports.

The Williamstown area is inviting to winter sports seekers because of its miles of trails and old roads in lofty mountains, some leading to summit of Mt. Greylock (3,505 alt.). Scenic grandeur greets parties making summit trips to watch the sun rise or set. There is a view for miles across rugged mountain ranges. Trips to the summit can be made winter and summer. Often deer, rabbits, partridges, and raccoons surprise trail users in these snowy retreats.

Accommodations for winter sports seekers in the Williamstown area are ample. In addition to several tourist lodges are the following in

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Williamstown: Williams Inn, $4.00 day and up (A); Haller Inn, $4.00 day (A); Elms Inn, Main St., $3.00 day (A); The Willows, $3.00 day (A); Mrs. Donald H. Cole, lodging and breakfast.

Well-known popular skiing areas reached from Williamstown are Sheep Hill, Berlin Pass, The Hopper, Goodell Hollow, and Stony Ledge.

Outstanding among Williamstown winter playgrounds is **SHEEP HILL (see No. 6 on map), 2.3 m.** from Williamstown and **19.5 m.** from Pittsfield on US 7, with big open slopes and ski jumps.

BERLIN PASS, novice class, **4.3 m.** from Williamstown **(see No. 7 on map),** is safe and sporty. The trail on Berlin Mt., one of the highest in the state, extends for **3.5 m.** with **1.5 m.** continuous downhill. Route from Pittsfield: N. on US 7 to junction State 2, at **18.6 m.**; L. on State 2, **.2 m.,** then (L) on main side road, **1.2 m.** to Haskin's Farm.

THE HOPPER (open shelter), a wild valley W. of Greylock, has a sheltered trail rising 2,500 feet in **3.8 m. (see No. 8 on map).** The upper section is an easy grade; the lower, steep, narrow, and dangerous for all but experts. Cross-country runs on the floor of the Hopper go over various trails. The distance from Williamstown is **7.4 m.,** from Pittsfield **18.6 m.** Route: E. from US 7 at Mt. Hope Farm entrance in S. Williamstown **2 m.** to Bacon's Farm, where the trails start.

GOODELL HOLLOW (see No. 9 on map), SW. of Greylock summit, provides splendid slopes with late skiing owing to steep drifts on E. side. **ROARING BROOK** snowshoe and ski trail up Greylock begins here. Route: S. from Williamstown on US 7 for **7 m. (15 m.** N. from Pittsfield) to country road (L). This narrow, steep road is open to the first house, **.7 m.,** but cars should be parked on state road and skis used to the area. Deep snowdrifts are found here when other areas are free from snow.

STONY LEDGE SKI TRAIL (intermediate class), a new development in Goodell Hollow, will be an exceptional and popular late spring skiing area owing to a sheltered location. The length of the trail is **1.6 m.**

NEW ASHFORD, sometimes called the "Switzerland of the Berkshires," is set snugly in the Taconic Range along US 7, **11.3 m.** S. of Williamstown and **10.7 m.** N. of Pittsfield. Here visitors and tourists may enjoy a winter of pleasures in hills of beauty. Snowshoe and ski trails, sleigh-rides, and barn dances popular in this Berkshire resort appeal to the outing parties.

Accommodations: Boyce's Filling Stations and Tourist Home can accommodate parties as large as 15; New England meals served. Also overnight cabin-camp heated by stoves. **(See accommodations under Pittsfield and Williamstown).**

Popular among the ski areas here is **MT. GREYLOCK SKI CLUB NIGHT HILL (see No. 10 on map),** on US 7, **9.3 m.** S. of Williamstown and **12.7 m.** N. of Pittsfield. It is a modest slope, steep, yet smooth and well sheltered. Above the hill is a short, steep trail with a small practice jump.

The **NEW ASHFORD ROAD (see No. 11 on map)** to Greylock is an auto road running E. from US 7 (**9.2 m.** S. of Williamstown and **12.8 m.** N. of Pittsfield) to the Civilian Conservation Corps camp at Greylock Park. Not too steep, it provides accessibility to a magic winter playground. It joins Rockwell Rd. to Greylock summit at **2 m.** The road is plowed to the Civilian Conservation Corps camp.

Accommodations: Boyce's Filling Stations and Tourist Home can accommodate parties as large as 15; New England meals served. Also overnight cabin-camp heated by stoves. **(See accommodations under Pittsfield and Williamstown).**

GREAT BARRINGTON AREA (South Egremont, Mt. Washington, Sheffield, Alford, New Boston, Otis).

GREAT BARRINGTON, popularly known as the "Gateway of the Berkshire Hills," is located on US 7, **12 m.** N. of the Connecticut State Line and **20 m.** S. of Pittsfield. A stone on the Village Green marks one of the spots where Great Britain first met armed resistance in America. Near the south line of the town another marker indicates the location of the last contest of Shays' Rebellion in 1787. Here also the poet, William Cullen Bryant, made his home from 1816 to 1825, served as town clerk, and was married.

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The Bryant home, completely restored, is now a museum of antiquities.

Served by the N. Y., N. H. & H. R.R., interstate bus lines, and busses of the Berkshire Street Railways, Great Barrington is easily accessible from all points. From the Center one is within immediate reach of various winter sports areas in southern Berkshire.

Three **skating rinks** are located a short distance from the Town Hall: Pendergast Pond, **1 m. S.** on US 7 opposite the Fairgrounds; a rink in the rear of the High School, **.2 m.** A large lighted rink just off Bridge St. near the Great Barrington Manufacturing Company provides room for hundreds of skaters. Instruction is given afternoons by WPA instructors. Free skating. For information consult the Taconic Ski Club.

ABBEY FARM is the nearest winter sport area **(see No. 30 on map), 1.6 m.** N. of the town, (L) off State 41. The open slopes are ideal for all classes of skiers, with winter trails for snowshoeing and skiing radiating N. and S. Abbey Farm, designated as a night hill, will be illuminated.

THE GREAT BARRINGTON WINTER SPORTS AREA (see No. 31 on map) is **3.1 m.** NE. of the town. There are open slopes for beginners, three intermediate ski runs, and a warm-house at the entrance. Route: N. from Great Barrington on US 7 to junction State 17, **1.1 m.,** (R) on State 17 to entrance at **3.1 m.** New Ski Tow, 1,500 ft.

SEEKONK BROOK HILL. A good intermediate hill **3.5 m.** from Great Barrington. S. from Great Barrington on US 7, (R) at **.1 m.** on St. James Pl., straight ahead to Taconic Ave. and on to Alford Road to **3.5 m.** at bridge. Slopes on (L).

SOUTH EGREMONT is **4 m.** SW. of Great Barrington State 17. **JUG END (see No. 33 on map)** is a private area located in South Egremont, with one novice and two intermediate ski runs and fine facilities for snowshoeing, tobogganing, ski-joring, and skating. Jug End Barn has been remodelled, accommodates private parties, and is located in Guilder Hollow. Route: S. on State 17 to **3.9 m.,** (L) on State 41 to junction, (R) on Mount Everett Reservation Rd. to **5.8 m.,** (L) to entrance at **6.4 m.**

MOUNT WASHINGTON, first settled by whites in 1692, is the oldest settlement in Berkshire County. The whole territory consists of a vast pile of mountains belonging to the Taconic Range. From the bald eminence of **MOUNT EVERETT (see No. 34 on map)** stretches a panorama of unusual beauty northward into Massachusetts and southward into Connecticut. Small villages and farms, orchards and vast forests, lakes and ponds are seen as through the eyes of

SPRING SPORT OF THE SNOWS

Alfred T. Stockwell, Pres. North Adams Ski Club, Shows How to Do It in Shorts at Goodell Hollow, Greylock

A SMILING BERKSHIRE SKIER

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a giant gazing upon a land of the Lilliputians in winter attire. Moose, deer, and other local game roam the hills. Winter temperatures frequently drop below zero, but the air is bracing and invigorating.

Snowshoe and ski trails are afforded by the utilization of back country roads, logging roads, and open slopes. Route: S. from Great Barrington on State 17 to **3.9 m.**, (L) on State 41 to junction of Mt. Everett Reservation Rd., (R) here and straight ahead, bear (L) at **9 m.** At **11.1 m.** is Spurr's Homestead, long famous in the annals of the town; at **12 m.** is the entrance to the summit of Mt. Everett. **Guilder Pond, 1 m.** on the summit trail, is one of the highest bodies of water in Berkshire County (2,000 alt.). Beyond Guilder Pond is the summit, "The Dome." Straight ahead on the main road at **13 m.** is Hunt's, where skating can be enjoyed. At **13.9 m.** is Weaver's, located on the site of the old town of Alander.

SHEFFIELD. The Berkshire School Area **(see No. 32 on map)** in Sheffield, being private, is used solely by the students and their guests. Route from Great Barrington: S. on State 41 to entrance (R) at **7.5 m.**

ALFORD (see No. 28 on map), a typical Berkshire Hills town noted for its rugged beauty, is situated **5 m.** NW. of Great Barrington. It has facilities for open slope skiing on the mountain slopes each side of the valley. Route: S. from Great Barrington **.1 m.**, (R) on St. James Pl., straight ahead on Taconic Avenue at **.6 m.**, go (L) on Alford Rd. **2.2. m.**, keep (L), **5 m.** Alford.

NEW BOSTON (see No. 35 on map), the southeastern section of Sandisfield on the Farmington River, is the site of the New England Ski Club Professional Jump. A new takeoff and landing slope were completed in 1936. Route: N. from Great Barrington on US 7. At **1.1 m.** (R) on State 17 to junction of State 8 in Otis, (R) on State 8 to New Boston, **29 m.** Restaurant on grounds and ample parking space.

Accommodations: Great Barrington-Berkshire Inn (E) or (A); Miller Hotel, Main St., $3.50 day (A); Peltonbrook, Stockbridge Rd. (A); Wayside Inn, Stockbridge Rd., $3.00 day (A); Mrs. L. K. Strong, Main St. (A); Mrs. Robert Paul, 31 Dresser Ave. (A); Mrs. F. T. Hassett, 142 Castle St. (A); Mrs. Michael McTigue, 174 Main St. (E); Miss Florence Logan, 182 Main St. (E); Mrs. C. I. Sweet, 81 Taconic Ave. (E); Mrs. C. Sparks, 30 Stockbridge Rd. (E); The Warm-House, center of ski area; South Egremont-Jug End Barn, $3.50 & $4.50 day (A); Old Egremont Tavern, $3.50 day (A); Lilac Hedge, $3.00 day (A); Mount Washington-Pennyroyal Arms, Alandar House, Old Acres (A & E).

OTIS, a typical small Berkshire town, is located at the junction of State 8 and State 17, within easy distances from Great Barrington, Lee, Winsted, and Westfield. There are many interesting trails, open fireplaces, and picnic areas in the state forest. Back country roads and logging roads offer the confirmed winter hiker an outing well worth the effort. Big Pond, Benton Pond, White Lily Pond, Otis Reservoir, and the Farmington River at North Otis are favorites of those addicted to ice fishing. There is an abundance of game, and its reputation as a deer hunting center is well established.

Accommodations: Hofbauers (A), Otis Tavern (A), Camp Winnicut (A), Dibbles (A), Knox Trail Homestead (A), The Maplewood (A).

WASHINGTON AREA. (Washington, Hinsdale, Becket, Peru, Dalton).

A well-balanced program of winter sports has been developed in the Washington area: tobogganning, skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, and cross-country trails all combine to make it a favorite one with winter sportsmen. From Pittsfield, all sections are easily reached by rail or road.

WASHINGTON is **13 m.** from Pittsfield on State 8. Accommodations: Mapleview, Carl Peer, mod. rates (A).

OCTOBER MT. STATE FOREST (see No. 22 & No. 23 on map), within boundaries of Washington, Becket, Lee, and Lenox, has cross-country snowshoe and ski trails. The famous **APPALACHIAN TRAIL** traverses the E. section of the forest. **ROARING BROOK TRAIL,** a **3.5 m.** path from Farnham Dam to Tory Cave and Under Mt. Road; **NUMBER FOUR ROAD; FELTON DAM ROAD (first class); MOUNTAIN ROAD** and **RIDGE**

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A NOVICE GROUP AT DALTON

TOBOGGANING AT HINSDALE COUNTRY CLUB

THE LAST LAP OF THUNDERBOLT

THE WARM-HOUSE AT FOOT OF THUNDERBOLT, MT. GREYLOCK

THE WILLIAMS OUTING CLUB JUMP

GHOST TRAIL, PITTSFIELD STATE FOREST

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ROAD are all good ski trails. There are shelters and camp sites in the forest. **(See also Lee, Lenox areas.)** Five ponds and lakes, fireplaces, and camping spots on October Mt. summit, log cabins, a wild life bird sanctuary including reintroduced wild turkeys, and many scenic outlooks—are all points of interest which should not be overlooked.

HINSDALE (see No. 16 on map) provides excellent winter sports on the Country Club grounds with large open slopes good for skiing and tobogganing. Hills are sometimes lighted at night. The Mt. Greylock Ski Club has a 50-60-foot jump on the N. slope W. of best ski hill. Route: State 9 and State 8 (R) to junction State 143. Left on State 143. Excellent location for big programs; nearness to snow train station eliminates additional transportation.

WARNER HILL (2,135 alt.) is good for snowshoeing and is crossed by the Appalachian Trail. Route: SW. from Hinsdale to road at **1 m.** which leads (R) to hill, **2 m.** To the **LEDGES** on Tulley Mt. **(private property, open), 1.8 m.** from Hinsdale via Curtis St., is a good snowshoe hike.

ASHMERE LAKE, a Y.M.C.A. 150-acre development with two cabins, will have skiing, fishing, and skating this winter. Route: E. from Hinsdale on Perry Rd., **2 m.**

DALTON is also on State 8 and 9, **5 m.** from Pittsfield. **Accommodations:** Irving House, $4.00 day (A).

Plans are under way for the development of the **WARREN** and **PELTIER PROPERTIES (see No. 15 on map)** in the N. part of Dalton largely for amateur and young people's sports, snowshoeing and sleigh-riding. Four trails are already cleared, including Little and Big Bulldog Hills. The slopes are open, some gentle, some steep, with turns. Route: N. from Dalton on Daly Ave. to Pleasant St. which leads (L) to Florence St. The latter runs W. to the top of the hill. There is also skating on the flooded rinks at Pine Grove Park, **.5 m.** N. of the center.

BECKET already has developed the **HAYS FARM SLOPES (see No. 17 on map),** a 40-acre tract E. of town and 1,500 feet from B. & A. RR. Tobogganing and skiing for all classes are good. At present one slope is 20 acres, 7,000 feet long, and two intermediate trails run 5,000 feet. Further developments are planned. A large barn at the foot of the slopes is used for a warm-house (refreshments). There is ample space for car parking. Route from Pittsfield: SE. on State 8, **19 m. Accommodations:** Broadview, Roy Smith, **1 m.** from town.

PERU (2,200 alt.), **14 m.** SE. of Pittsfield on State 143, has hiking and bridle trails on **GARNET HILL** that can be used for snowshoe and cross-country trails. Views of Massachusetts, New York, and Vermont are possible on clear days. Fireplaces and picnic areas are located in the Peru State Forest on the Hinsdale-Middlefield Rd., **5 m.** N. of the Middlefield Town Line.

SAVOY AREA (Savoy, Florida, Windsor).

Atop the Hoosac Range at an elevation of 2,613 ft., **SAVOY MT. STATE FOREST (see No. 5 on map)** lends appeal as a charming winter playground for hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing over miles of old roads. Many open slopes are reached from numerous trails. Additional ski trails are being developed by Civilian Conservation Corps personnel, and early and lasting snowfalls provide for winter sports during the entire season. The famous Tannery Falls and Balanced Rock are local attractions. Fireplaces, tent sites, and picnic areas are plentiful. It is ideal for winter hikes, snowshoe and ski cross-country trips.

Route: from Pittsfield, State 9 and State 8 (L) to No. Adams, **22 m.;** E. on Mohawk Trail (State 2) to Western Summit; bear (R) on Savoy Rd. (ploughed to Savoy Village) passing the Civilian Conservation Corps camp. Another route from Pittsfield: State 9 and State 8 (L) to Adams, **16 m.;** E. from Adams on State 116 to Savoy. From here a road leads N. to the reservation.

MOHAWK TRAIL HILL in Florida **(see No. 4 on map)** is located on the top of the Mohawk Trail (State 2), W. of North Adams. Famous as one of country's best scenic auto tours, it is fast becoming equally popular as a winter sports region. High above surrounding valleys the snow lasts late. The slope at the site of the bronze elk statue is a popular ski area. There are no

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UP INTO THE BERKSHIRE WONDERLAND

A Lone Skier Ascending Cheshire Harbor Trail, Mt. Greylock

GET A LOAD OF THIS!

Ski-tows in Several Areas Help Make Uphill Work Fun—A Line-up at Bousquet's, Pittsfield

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steep grades and old roads and trails radiate from here through the state forests. Splendid scenic views from the tops of various summits along the route entice many to make the climb.

Accommodations are found nearby at Whitcomb Summit Hotel, Trail Top Inn, Moore's Summit (4 cabins), Big Look Place (4 cabins), Mrs. Swanson's (2 cabins), and Hosea Wing (4 cabins).

WINDSOR STATE FOREST in Windsor and Savoy is a reservation of 1,535 acres of arresting beauty. The peaceful stillness of wooded expanse holds profound appeal for summer tourists, and in winter, covered with glittering snow and frost, it is even more attractive.

Snowshoe and ski trails are now being developed through the area. Famous Windsor Jambs Gorge furnishes an interesting instance of prehistoric upheaval; wild life areas, picnic areas, the Dell, and hidden brooks and pools await the winter visitor. Fireplaces, picnic tables, and fishing and hunting in season are to be found in this state forest reservation.

Route from Pittsfield: E. on State 9 (Berkshire Trail) through Windsor, **12 m.**, to West Cummington, **16 m.**, where a large sign points the direction into the state forest area.

STOCKBRIDGE AREA (Stockbridge, Lee, and Lenox).

Historic **STOCKBRIDGE,** a noted cultural center, is **12 m.** S. of Pittsfield on US 7. The Mission House, indelibly associated with John Sergeant and Jonathan Edwards, and the Indian Burial Mound, last resting place of the Housatonic Indians, are two significant points of interest.

LAKE MAHKEENAC (Stockbridge Bowl), described by William Cullen Bryant and Nathaniel Hawthorne, is used during the winter months as a sail-skating and ice-fishing area. Route: W. from Stockbridge on State 102 to junction State 183. Right on State 183 to the entrance at **3 m.**

THE SKATING RINK (illuminated for night skating) and the **ICE GLEN SKI TRAILS (see No. 27)** in the Beartown Mountain Area are S. of Stockbridge. Ice Glen is a picturesque gorge which in summer retains deposits of ice in its deep rock crevices. Route: S. from Stockbridge on US 7 to first road junction (L). Left on this road to rink at **.2 m.** Left at **.2 m.** to ski trail entrance at **.6 m.**

There is a **PRACTICE SLOPE,** ideal for the novice, on the Golf Course directly in front of Heaton Hall. Route: W. from Stockbridge, R. on first road **.2 m.** **SLIDING HILL,** which is closed to traffic, is also on the road running W. from the center at **.1 m.**

THE ARGENTI AND HOPKINS SLOPES are open and suitable for all classes. Route: W. from Stockbridge center on State 102 to junction of first road, (L) across R.R. bridge to next road junction. Left on this road and follow country road bearing (R). Entrance at **1.6 m.**

THE CHERRY BOUNCE SKI TRAILS, open slopes for all classes, are located NW. from the center. The trails run N. to Lake Averic. Route: W. from Stockbridge on State 102 to junction State 183. Right on State 183 to road (L) at **2.3 m.** which leads to the entrance at **3.1 m.**

SKI JORING: One may pursue this sport on any back road of the town. Information about rental of horses may be obtained from a member of the local ski club or any merchant.

BEARTOWN MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST (see No. 29 on map) is located in South Lee, with an entrance immediately opposite the N. Y., N. H. & H. railroad station. This area was developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps to accommodate devotees arriving by snow trains, and is easily accessible from all points in Berkshire County. Several trails and open slopes provide opportunity for all classes of skiers to try their skill. Route: E. from Stockbridge on State 102 to South Lee, **1.5 m.** Right from South Lee across bridge and railroad tracks to entrance of forest.

LEE and its environs, **4 m.** E. of Stockbridge on US 20, have facilities for almost every form of winter sports: skiing, skating, sliding, snowshoeing, ice-fishing, and tobogganing. Bus routes extend in all directions and the Berkshire Branch of the N. Y., N. H. & H. R.R. passes through the town. Trails opened by the Beartown Sports Club, a local organization, follow.

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HUCKLEBERRY TRAIL, 30 m. long, follows the abandoned trolley road which winds over the hills toward Huntington via Becket, Otis, and Blandford. Route: E. from Lee on US 20 to the junction of US 20 and State 102, **.5 m.**

STAGE COACH TRAIL runs over hills and through woods from Belden's Tavern, **4 m.** E. of Lee on US 20, to East St., Lee, a distance of **3 m.**

SPAGHETTI TRAIL, 3.5 m. in length, runs from "Here-U-R," a roadside stand on US 20 used as a warm-house, over the hills to East St., Lee.

OLD SHADE FARM has **11 m.** of bridle paths through well-wooded forest which can be utilized for winter trails, snow shoes, and skis. Horses for ski-joring may be had for a nominal fee. Route: W. from the Park, Lee center, on hill road to Stockbridge to entrance (L), **1.5 m.**

ATHLETIC PARK, a skating area, is on State 102, **1 m.** E. of Lee center. **THE COVE,** another skating area, is located in a well-sheltered cove on the Housatonic River. Route: N. from Lee on US 20 to junction of road, **.4 m.** Right on this road to **.7 m.** (L).

LAUREL LAKE (ice fishing and skating), 1.2 m. N. of Lee on US 20, has considerable natural charm and beauty. The **HIGHLAWN TOBOGGAN SLIDE** on the shore of the lake is semi-circular in shape, thus providing a short return to the starting point. Route: N. from Lee on US 20 to road junction, **.5 m.;** up hill to road (R) at **1.2 m.** which leads to entrance (R) at **2 m.**

LENOX, halfway between Stockbridge and Pittsfield, has been a famous resort town for more than a century. Henry Ward Beecher preached in the fine old Colonial church (1805) on the hill. Lenox, also, has some excellent winter sports areas.

PLEASANT VALLEY BIRD SANCTUARY (see No. 21 on map) has a series of interlacing ski trails winding through its entire three hundred acres. An extension of the Sky Line Trail connects it with Bousquet's, Pittsfield, on the N. and Beartown Mountain State Forest in South Lee. Route: NW. from Lenox on Cliffwood St., bearing (R) at **2 m.** to the entrance at **2.4 m.**

OCTOBER MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST (see No. 22 on map) was formerly owned by Harry Payne Whitney as a game preserve for moose, deer, elk, and buffalo. Two C.C.C. camps located on the reservation have done much to preserve its original beauty. Near the entrance located in New Lenox are warm cabins, open air fireplaces, and several roads suitable as novice ski runs. Route: N. from Lenox on US 20 to road junction at **3 m.** Right on this road to entrance (L), **4.8 m.**

BERKSHIRES HUNT AND COUNTRY CLUB (semi-public), **1 m.** S. of Lenox, on US 20, is characterized by beautiful scenery and gentle acclivities, which are popular with the novice skier. **THE LENOX CLUB** (private) is **1 m.** N. of Lenox on Cliffwood St.

Accommodations: Lenox—Village Inn, central location, $4.00 daily (A); St. Lawrence Inn, central location, $4.00 daily (A); Downs Cottage, central location, rooms only; Stonewall Lodge, lodging and breakfast, $1.50; Stockbridge—The Martin, $4.00 day (A); Harrod House, $4.00 day (A); Village Inn, $4.00 day (A); The Maples, $3.50 day (A); Tracey Inn, $3.50 day (A); Elm Lodge, $3.50 day (A); Elm Street Inn, $3.50 day (A); The Laurel, $3.50 day (A); Denise Roy, $3.50 day (A); Lee—Morgan House, central location, transportation to rec. areas (A); Rosa Restaurant, rooms and meals, transportation to rec. areas (A); Mrs. B. Deeley, Center St., transportation to rec. areas (A); Auld Wayside Lodge, 60 Housatonic St. (A); Elmore Inn, Center St. (A); Willow Brook Farm, Stockbridge Rd., transportation to rec. areas (A); South Lee—Foot of Ski Trail, Mrs. William A. Spencer (A); Mrs. Albert Hagberg (A); Miss Margaret Murphy (A); Mrs. Jennie Wells (E); Mrs. Andrew Ketchen (E); Mrs. Olive Brown (E); Mrs. John F. Kelly (E).

TRANSPORTATION

Facilities for reaching the Berkshires are excellent. The area is easily reached by three trunk railroads and several bus lines. All the principal metropolitan areas are served with speedy, comfortable transportation to the Berkshire Hills. A one-day trip, with time for hours of outdoor recreation, or a week-end visit giving time for trips to several areas can be simply arranged. Snow

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FUN IN THE FOREST AND FIELD

Crisp Cold and Powder Snow Tempt the Skier to Try The Turns in Air

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train service is provided by three railroads. Beginning the first Sunday in January snow trains have been scheduled for every week-end during the snow season.

The B. & A. R.R. into Pittsfield serves Boston, Worcester, Springfield, and Albany areas; the N. Y., N. H. & H. R.R. and the N. Y. C. lines serve New York, southern, central and northern Berkshire, and Connecticut. The B. & M. R.R. serves Vermont, New Hampshire, northern Massachusetts, North Adams and Williamstown, and the Boston area.

Four scheduled bus lines enter Pittsfield and other Berkshire towns: Vermont Transit, Interstate Busses Corp., N. E. Transportation Co., and the Greyhound Lines.

SNOW TRAINS

N. Y., N. H. & H. R.R.—**Snow Clipper**—beginning Feb. 7, 1937—lv. Grand Central Sta., N. Y. C., before 8 A.M. Arr. Pittsfield (about) 3 hrs. 40 mins. later.

Second section—lv. Grand Central after 8 A.M. and stops at Norfolk, Ct.; South Lee; Great Barrington; and Pittsfield. Time 4 hrs.

These trains will be run on each SUNDAY during snow-season and on holidays. (Subject to weather.)

SATURDAYS, regularly scheduled trains, running as snow special (all stops), lv. Grand Central Sta. at 12:45 P.M. Arr. Pittsfield, 5 P.M. Special rates and service on trains. Equipment for rental. Snow busses to some ski areas.

B. & A. R.R.—**The Winter Sportsman**—beginning Feb. 7, 1937—lv. Boston (about) 8:30 A.M. Stops: Worcester, Springfield, and at snow areas: Becket, Hinsdale, Pittsfield. Special rates to parties of 40 or over. Inquire Asst. Gen. Pass. Agt., Rm. 357, South Station, Boston.

This train will run on succeeding SUNDAYS during snow-season and on holidays. (Subject to weather.)

N. Y. C. R.R.—Lv. Grand Central Sta., Saturday, Feb. 6, 1937 (time to be announced), for the Berkshires; stops at Pittsfield, Adams, North Adams. Return Sunday. Scheduled for succeeding SATURDAYS to March 6. (Subject to weather.)

Note: B. & A. and N. Y. C. will bring trains from Connecticut to the Berkshires in co-operation with the N. Y., N. H. & H. R.R. Week-end parties and trains for special parties are being planned.

B. & M. R.R.—No special snow trains but special rates to parties on regular service from Boston to North Adams.

Interstate busses — Springfield to Pittsfield. Special rates to four western counties, day service. Special rates for parties to Pittsfield, free transportation to Bousquet Ski Area.

FOR FURTHER TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION SEE TIME TABLES AND CONSULT LOCAL TRAVEL AGENCIES.

DISTANCES TO AND FROM BERKSHIRE TOWNS AND CITIES:

From Pittsfield to:

Adams	16 miles
Alford	27 miles
Becket	19 miles
Cheshire	11 miles
Dalton	5 miles
Egremont	24 miles
G. Barrington	20 miles
Florida	28 miles
Hinsdale	10 miles
Hancock	14 miles
Lanesborough	6 miles
Lee	11 miles
Lenox	7 miles
Monterey	27 miles
Mt. Washington	30 miles
New Ashford	12 miles
New Marlboro	28 miles
North Adams	22 miles
Otis	24 miles
Peru	14 miles
Richmond	9 miles
Sandisfield	37 miles
Sheffield	26 miles
Stockbridge	12 miles
Tyringham	16 miles
Washington	8 miles
W. Stockbridge	13 miles
Williamstown	22 miles
Windsor	12 miles

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BOWERS OF WINTRY BEAUTY

Just Off the Snow Train from Boston

A Sleigh-load Bound for Adams Slopes

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Distance from Pittsfield to:

Albany	37 miles
Boston	147 miles
Greenfield	60 miles
New York City	145 miles
Springfield	57 miles
Distance from No. Adams to Adams	5.4 miles
Distance from No. Adams to Greenfield	38.9 miles
Distance from Boston to Greenfield	96 miles

CALENDAR OF WINTER EVENTS

Feb. 6-7 — Williams College Winter Carnival. College Ski Squads to participate. At Williamstown.

Feb. 7 — Inter-club Meet. Two races to be run simultaneously on the Ghost Trail and Shadow Trail at Pittsfield State Forest. Participants: American Ski Club, Dartmouth Ski Club, German Ski Club, and the Skidrieverien of New York City. The Mount Greylock Ski Club will also participate but not competitively.

Feb. 22 — The Eastern Ski Association Down Hill Championship Race on the Thunderbolt on Greylock. This is the first time this race has been run in the East. All Eastern amateur champions will compete.

Feb. 27 — Berkshire Interscholastic Ski Meet, Bousquet's.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR WINTER VISITORS

Accommodations listed under each area were compiled and recommended by the Berkshire Hills Conference, and where rates are missing it is because this information was not available or was not considered necessary by the compilers.

(E)=European plan; (A)=American plan.

INFORMATION AUTHORITY

All information on ski trails and accommodations contained in this book was furnished through the Berkshire County Ski and Outing Clubs, and checked by workers of the Federal Writers' Project and qualified Volunteer Consultants appointed by the Federal Writers' Project, representing the ski and outing clubs of the county. Further information was compiled by the workers of the Project, checked by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation, and, in some instances, by employees of the Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

A BERKSHIRE HIGHWAY

After the Storm Powerful Plows Thrust Aside Tons of Snow—Like This

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